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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of : Masahiro KISONO

Serial No. : 09/316,908

Group Art Unit: 2622

Date Filed : May 5, 1999

Examiner: J. Pokrzywa

For : APPARATUS AND METHOD OF PERFORMING A
FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION THROUGH LOCAL AREA NETWORK

1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10036

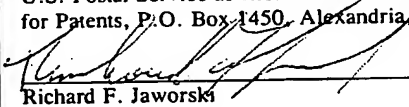
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the first Office Action dated March 27, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the
U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to the Commissioner
for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Richard F. Jaworski
Reg. No. 33,515

May 29, 2003
Date

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of transmitting an information transfer request from a client data terminal, which is coupled to a local area network, to a called data terminal which is coupled to said local area network and a public switched telephone network, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

collecting information sets of communication capabilities of a plurality of different data terminals on said local area network at an arbitrary time on said client data terminal, said different data terminals being coupled to said local area network and said public switched telephone network and including said called data terminal;

storing said information sets of communication capabilities into a memory;

generating on said client data terminal facsimile image information by reference to one of said stored information sets of communication capabilities pertaining to said called data terminal;

creating on said client data terminal an information transfer request for requesting transmission of said facsimile image information to an arbitrary facsimile machine connected to said public switched telephone network;

sending said information transfer request from said client data terminal to a communications controller; and

transmitting said information transfer request from said communications controller to said called data terminal through said local area network upon a completion of said sending step.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein said information transfer request includes a telephone number of said arbitrary facsimile machine, said facsimile image information to be

transmitted, property information of said facsimile image information, and identification information identifying said called data terminal.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of Claim 2, wherein each of said information sets of communication capabilities of said different data terminals collected in the collecting step includes information identifying at least a connection for specifying one of said registered different data terminals, an image resolution, a recording sheet size, encoding/decoding functions.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of Claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

judging whether said facsimile image information to be transmitted has been encoded using an encoding function which is lower grade than said encoding/decoding functions of said stored information set; and

converting said facsimile image information to be transmitted using said encoding/decoding functions registered in said memory during said storing step when a result of said judging step determines that said facsimile image information to be transmitted is lower grade.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein said communications controller has a default condition in which said communications controller is normally conditioned to send the information transfer request to a specific data terminal from among said different data terminals in said memory, and can be released from said default condition and be set to a different data terminal when said client data terminal specifies another called data terminal to send said information transfer request.

Claim 6 (Original): A client data terminal which is coupled to a local area network, comprising:

a first communications device that generates facsimile image information by reference to information of communication capabilities of a called data terminal to which said first communications device requests to send such facsimile image information and then performs a standard facsimile communications operation with respect to an information transfer request for requesting a transmission of said facsimile image information to an arbitrary facsimile machine connected to a public switched telephone network, said called data terminal being one of a plurality of different data terminals coupled to said local area network and said public switched telephone network;

a memory; and

a second communications device that performs at an arbitrary time the standard communications operation with at least one of said plurality of different data terminals to receive information sets of communication capabilities of said at least one of said plurality of different data terminals and stores such information into said memory, that performs the standard facsimile communications operation with said first communications device to send from said memory one of said information sets of communication capabilities which pertain to said called data terminal, and that performs the standard facsimile communications operation with said first communications device to receive said information transfer request, and that performs the standard facsimile communications operation, using said information transfer request received from said first communications device, with said called data terminal through said local area network after completing the standard facsimile communications operation with said first communications device, said second communications device being operatively connected to said first

communications device and to said plurality of different data terminals via said local area network.

Claim 7 (Original): The client data terminal of Claim 6, wherein said second communications device controls said standard facsimile communications operation with said first communications device to perform throughout a plurality of facsimile communications steps which are defined as phases A through to E in accordance with a Group 3 facsimile communications procedure.

Claim 8 (Original): The client data terminal of Claim 6, wherein said information transfer request includes a telephone number of said arbitrary facsimile machine, said facsimile image information to be transmitted, property information of said facsimile image information, and identification information identifying said called data terminal.

Claim 9 (Original): The client data terminal of Claim 6, wherein each of said information sets of communication capabilities of said different data terminals sent from said first communications device to said second communications device includes information identifying at least a connection for specifying one of said registered different data terminals, an image resolution, a recording sheet size, encoding/decoding functions.

Claim 10 (Original): The client data terminal of Claim 6, wherein said second communications device can convert said information transfer request sent from said first communications device, using said encoding/decoding functions registered in said memory as the information of communication capabilities of said called data terminal, when an encoding function used by said

first communications device for conversion of said information transfer request is lower grade than said registered encoding/decoding functions.

Claim 11 (Original): The client data terminal of Claim 6, wherein said first communications device has a default condition, in which said first communications device is normally conditioned to send the information transfer request to a specific data terminal from among said different data terminals registered in said memory, and can be released from said default condition and be set to another different data terminal when said first communications device specifies another called data terminal.

Claim 12 (Original): A client data terminal which is coupled to a local area network, comprising:

first communications means for generating facsimile image information by reference to information of communication capabilities of a called data terminal to which said first communications device requests to send such facsimile image information and then performs a standard facsimile communications operation with respect to an information transfer request for requesting a transmission of said facsimile image information to an arbitrary facsimile machine connected to a public switched telephone network, said called data terminal being one of a plurality of different data terminals coupled to said local area network and said public switched telephone network;

memory means; and

second communications means for performing at an arbitrary time the standard communications operation with at least one of said plurality of different data terminals to receive

information sets of communication capabilities of said at least one of said plurality of different data terminals and stores such information into said memory means, performing the standard facsimile communications operation with said first communications means to send from said memory means one of said information sets of communication capabilities which pertain to said called data terminal, and performing the standard facsimile communications operation with said first communications means to receive said information transfer request, and performing the standard facsimile communications operation, using said information transfer request received from said first communications means, with said called data terminal through said local area network after completing the standard facsimile communications operation with said first communications means, said second communications means being operatively connected to said first communications means and to said plurality of different data terminals via said local area network.

Claim 13 (Original): The client data terminal of Claim 12, wherein said second communications means controls said standard facsimile communications operation with said first communications means to perform throughout a plurality of facsimile communications steps which are defined as phases A through to E in accordance with a Group 3 facsimile communications procedure.

Claim 14 (Original): The client data terminal of Claim 12, wherein said information transfer request includes a telephone number of said arbitrary facsimile machine, said facsimile image information to be transmitted, property information of said facsimile image information, and identification information identifying said called data terminal.

Claim 15 (Original): The client data terminal of Claim 12, wherein each of said information sets of communication capabilities of said different data terminals sent from said first communications means to said second communications means includes information identifying at least a connection for specifying one of said registered different data terminals, an image resolution, a recording sheet size, encoding/decoding functions.

Claim 16 (Original): The client data terminal of Claim 12, wherein said second communications means can convert said information transfer request sent from said first communications means, using said encoding/decoding functions registered in said memory means as the information of communication capabilities of said called data terminal, when an encoding function used by said first communications means for conversion of said information transfer request is lower grade than said registered encoding/decoding functions.

Claim 17 (Original): The client data terminal of Claim 12, wherein said first communications means has a default condition, in which said first communications means is normally conditioned to send the information transfer request to a specific data terminal from among said different data terminals registered in said memory means, and can be released from said default condition and be set to another different data terminal when said first communications means specifies another called data terminal.

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 27, 2003.

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, and 12 are in independent form.

By the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to correct formal matters only. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present Amendment.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(g) as allegedly having unacceptable top margins. Applicant submits herewith a Letter With Proposed Drawing Changes. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the objection under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(g) be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,828,836 to Westwick et al. Claims 1, 2, 6-8, and 12-14 were rejected under Section 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,005,677 to Suzuki. Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious from Suzuki et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,517,324 to Fite, Jr. et al.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submit independent claims 1, 6, and 12 are patentably distinct from the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 relates to a method of transmitting an information transfer request from a client data terminal, which is coupled to a local area network, to a called data terminal which is coupled to the local area network and a public switched telephone network. The method comprises collecting information sets of communication capabilities of a plurality of different data

terminals on the local area network at an arbitrary time on the client data terminal, the different data terminals being coupled to the local area network and the public switched telephone network and including the called data terminal, and storing the information sets of communication capabilities into a memory. Facsimile image information is generated on the client data terminal by reference to one of the stored information sets of communication capabilities pertaining to the called data terminal. An information transfer request is created on the client data terminal for requesting transmission of the facsimile image information to an arbitrary facsimile machine connected to the public switched telephone network. The method also comprises sending the information transfer request from the client data terminal to a communications controller, and transmitting the information transfer request from the communications controller to the called data terminal through the local area network upon a completion of the sending step.

Westwick et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a method for minimizing the transfer of data in a networked distributed data processing system having a network host. The method uploads and temporarily stores an information unit in a sending controller device, and controls the direct transmission of an information unit between a sending and a receiving controller device. Facsimile documents, digitized voice information, still-motion video or full-motion video frame sequences are generally referred to as an "information unit" (col. 1, lines 34-37). The information units are stored in the controller until a data director determines that it is time for them to be sent to their recipient users (col. 4, lines 14-17). The data director maintains a directory indicating the location of all of the information units in the network (col. 9, lines 30-32).

Suzuki, as understood by Applicant, relates to a facsimile device comprising local area

network communication controlling means, exchanging network communication controlling means, and telephone number converting table means. A telephone number conversion table represents the relationship between the telephone number referred to at the time of connection through the general exchanging network and the IP address referred to at the time of connection through the local area networks and the internet. Each element of the table is composed of an ID for identifying each respective element, a telephone number, and the corresponding IP address (col. 4, lines 1-6 and 9-12).

However, Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of a method comprising collecting information sets of communication capabilities of a plurality of different data terminals on the local area network at an arbitrary time on the client data terminal, the different data terminals being coupled to the local area network and the public switched telephone network and including the called data terminal, and storing the information sets of communication capabilities into a memory, as recited in independent claim 1. Furthermore, Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion of facsimile image information being generated on the client data terminal by reference to one of the stored information sets of communication capabilities pertaining to the called data terminal, as also recited in independent claim 1. In fact, the cited art does not teach or suggest use of information sets of communication capabilities as described in the instant application at all. One non-limiting example of such an information set is described on page 22, lines 9-17, and shown in Fig. 6.

Accordingly, Applicant submits independent claim 1 is patentably distinct from the cited art. Independent claims 6 and 12 are believed to be patentably distinct from the cited art, for at least similar reasons.

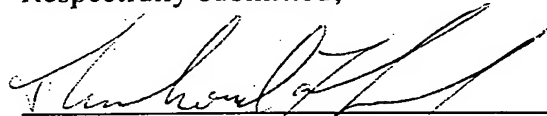
The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Entry of this amendment and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



RICHARD F. JAWORSKI

Reg. No. 33,515

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of : Masahiro KISONO

Serial No.: 09/316,908

Group Art Unit: 2622

Date Filed: May 5, 1999

Examiner: J. Pokrzywa

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD OF PERFORMING A FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION
THROUGH LOCAL AREA NETWORK

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Paul Teng *October 31, 2003*
Paul Teng Date
Reg. No. 40,857

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Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO AUGUST 6, 2003 OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the final Office Action dated August 6, 2003 in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the August 6, 2003 Office Action is due November 6, 2003. Accordingly, this Amendment and the Request for Continued Examination submitted concurrently herewith are being timely filed.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims section which begins on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.

Listing of Claims

1. (previously presented) A method of transmitting an information transfer request from a client data terminal, which is coupled to a local area network, to a called data terminal which is coupled to said local area network and a public switched telephone network, said method comprising:

collecting information sets of communication capabilities of a plurality of different data terminals on said local area network at an arbitrary time on said client data terminal, said different data terminals being coupled to said local area network and said public switched telephone network and including said called data terminal;

storing said information sets of communication capabilities into a memory;

generating on said client data terminal facsimile image information by reference to one of said stored information sets of communication capabilities pertaining to said called data terminal;

creating on said client data terminal an information transfer request for requesting transmission of said facsimile image information to an arbitrary facsimile machine connected to said public switched telephone network;

sending said information transfer request from said client data terminal to a communications controller; and

transmitting said information transfer request from said communications controller to said called data terminal through said local area network upon a completion of said sending step.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said information transfer request includes a telephone number of said arbitrary

facsimile machine, said facsimile image information to be transmitted, property information of said facsimile image information, and identification information identifying said called data terminal.

3. (original) The method of Claim 2, wherein each of said information sets of communication capabilities of said different data terminals collected in the collecting step includes information identifying at least a connection for specifying one of said registered different data terminals, an image resolution, a recording sheet size, encoding/decoding functions.

4. (original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

judging whether said facsimile image information to be transmitted has been encoded using an encoding function which is lower grade than said encoding/decoding functions of said stored information set; and

converting said facsimile image information to be transmitted using said encoding/decoding functions registered in said memory during said storing step when a result of said judging step determines that said facsimile image information to be transmitted is lower grade.

5. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said communications controller has a default condition in which said communications controller is normally conditioned to send the information transfer request to a specific data terminal from among said different data terminals in said memory, and can be released from

said default condition and be set to a different data terminal when said client data terminal specifies another called data terminal to send said information transfer request.

6. (original) A client data terminal which is coupled to a local area network, comprising:

- a first communications device that generates facsimile image information by reference to information of communication capabilities of a called data terminal to which said first communications device requests to send such facsimile image information and then performs a standard facsimile communications operation with respect to an information transfer request for requesting a transmission of said facsimile image information to an arbitrary facsimile machine connected to a public switched telephone network, said called data terminal being one of a plurality of different data terminals coupled to said local area network and said public switched telephone network;

- a memory; and

- a second communications device that performs at an arbitrary time the standard communications operation with at least one of said plurality of different data terminals to receive information sets of communication capabilities of said at least one of said plurality of different data terminals and stores such information into said memory, that performs the standard facsimile communications operation with said first communications device to send from said memory one of said information sets of communication capabilities which pertain to said called data terminal, and that performs the standard facsimile communications operation with said first communications device to receive said information transfer request, and that performs the

standard facsimile communications operation, using said information transfer request received from said first communications device, with said called data terminal through said local area network after completing the standard facsimile communications operation with said first communications device, said second communications device being operatively connected to said first communications device and to said plurality of different data terminals via said local area network.

7. (original) The client data terminal of Claim 6, wherein said second communications device controls said standard facsimile communications operation with said first communications device to perform throughout a plurality of facsimile communications steps which are defined as phases A through to E in accordance with a Group 3 facsimile communications procedure.

8. (original) The client data terminal of Claim 6, wherein said information transfer request includes a telephone number of said arbitrary facsimile machine, said facsimile image information to be transmitted, property information of said facsimile image information, and identification information identifying said called data terminal.

9. (original) The client data terminal of Claim 6, wherein each of said information sets of communication capabilities of said different data terminals sent from said first communications device to said second communications device includes information identifying at least a connection for specifying one of said registered different data terminals, an image resolution, a recording sheet size, encoding/decoding functions.

10. (original) The client data terminal of Claim 6, wherein said second communications device can convert said information transfer request sent from said first communications device, using said encoding/decoding functions registered in said memory as the information of communication capabilities of said called data terminal, when an encoding function used by said first communications device for conversion of said information transfer request is lower grade than said registered encoding/decoding functions.

11. (original) The client data terminal of Claim 6, wherein said first communications device has a default condition, in which said first communications device is normally conditioned to send the information transfer request to a specific data terminal from among said different data terminals registered in said memory, and can be released from said default condition and be set to another different data terminal when said first communications device specifies another called data terminal.

12. (original) A client data terminal which is coupled to a local area network, comprising:

first communications means for generating facsimile image information by reference to information of communication capabilities of a called data terminal to which said first communications device requests to send such facsimile image information and then performs a standard facsimile communications operation with respect to an information transfer request for requesting a transmission of said facsimile image information to an arbitrary facsimile machine connected

to a public switched telephone network, said called data terminal being one of a plurality of different data terminals coupled to said local area network and said public switched telephone network;

memory means; and

second communications means for performing at an arbitrary time the standard communications operation with at least one of said plurality of different data terminals to receive information sets of communication capabilities of said at least one of said plurality of different data terminals and stores such information into said memory means, performing the standard facsimile communications operation with said first communications means to send from said memory means one of said information sets of communication capabilities which pertain to said called data terminal, and performing the standard facsimile communications operation with said first communications means to receive said information transfer request, and performing the standard facsimile communications operation, using said information transfer request received from said first communications means, with said called data terminal through said local area network after completing the standard facsimile communications operation with said first communications means, said second communications means being operatively connected to said first communications means and to said plurality of different data terminals via said local area network.

13. (original) The client data terminal of Claim 12, wherein said second communications means controls said standard facsimile communications operation with said first communications means to perform throughout a plurality of facsimile communications steps which are defined as phases A through to E in accordance with a Group 3

facsimile communications procedure.

14. (original) The client data terminal of Claim 12, wherein said information transfer request includes a telephone number of said arbitrary facsimile machine, said facsimile image information to be transmitted, property information of said facsimile image information, and identification information identifying said called data terminal.

15. (original) The client data terminal of Claim 12, wherein each of said information sets of communication capabilities of said different data terminals sent from said first communications means to said second communications means includes information identifying at least a connection for specifying one of said registered different data terminals, an image resolution, a recording sheet size, encoding/decoding functions.

16. (original) The client data terminal of Claim 12, wherein said second communications means can convert said information transfer request sent from said first communications means, using said encoding/decoding functions registered in said memory means as the information of communication capabilities of said called data terminal, when an encoding function used by said first communications means for conversion of said information transfer request is lower grade than said registered encoding/decoding functions.

17. (original) The client data terminal of Claim 12, wherein said first communications means has a default condition, in which said first communications means is normally conditioned to send the

information transfer request to a specific data terminal from among said different data terminals registered in said memory means, and can be released from said default condition and be set to another different data terminal when said first communications means specifies another called data terminal.

18. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said one of said information sets of communication capabilities pertaining to the called data terminal is used to generate the facsimile image information in a format acceptable to the called data terminal.

19. (new) The client data terminal of claim 6, wherein said information of communication capabilities of the called data terminal is used to generate the facsimile image information in a format acceptable to the called data terminal.

20. (new) The client data terminal of claim 12, wherein said information of communication capabilities of the called data terminal is used to generate the facsimile image information in a format acceptable to the called data terminal.

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated August 6, 2003. Claims 1-17 were pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant has added new dependent claims 18-20. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are presented for examination, with claims 1, 6 and 12 being in independent form.

The Office Action states that corrected drawings are required. In response, Applicant submits herewith a set of corrected drawings as Exhibit A attached hereto.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,828,836 to Westwick et al. Claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly by U.S. Patent No. 6,005,677 to Suzuki. Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Suzuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,517,324 to Fite, Jr. et al.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 6 and 12 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to facsimile transmission operation through a LAN (local area network) to which a client data terminal and a called data terminal are connected, wherein an information transfer request is transmitted from the client data terminal to the called data terminal which is also connected to a PSTN (public switched telephone network), such that immediacy of transmission to the destination is enhanced and the likelihood of a communication error is decreased.

Information is exchanged during facsimile communications between sending and receiving facsimile apparatuses in order for one of the apparatuses to know the statuses and capabilities of the apparatus on the other end.

For example, a facsimile apparatus X which uses B4-sized paper may send facsimile image information to a facsimile apparatus Y which uses A4-sized paper. The facsimile apparatus Y which receives the facsimile image information from the facsimile apparatus X may not be able to reproduce the received information in B4 form. Therefore, according to the present application, the facsimile apparatus X, with information of the communication capabilities of the facsimile apparatus Y, converts the facsimile image data from B4 form into A4 form according to the capability of the facsimile apparatus Y, before sending the facsimile image information to the facsimile apparatus Y.

According to the present application, information sets of communication capabilities of plural data terminals (including the called data terminal) on the LAN are collected on the client data terminal, and facsimile image information is generated based on the information of communication capabilities of the called data terminal. Thus, image conversion need not be performed at the called data terminal.

Paper size is merely one example of information of communication capabilities, which may include other examples, such as image resolution, encoding/decoding (i.e. compression) functions, etc. Thus, as discussed in the application, the facsimile image information generated according to the information of communication capabilities of the called data terminal is acceptable to the called data terminal (see application at page 35, lines 9-18), and transmission of the facsimile

image information to the called data terminal is efficient (see application at page 28, lines 17-20).

For example, independent claim 1 is directed to a method of transmitting an information transfer request from a client data terminal, which is coupled to a local area network, to a called data terminal which is coupled to the local area network and a public switched telephone network. The method comprises (i) collecting information sets of communication capabilities of a plurality of different data terminals on the local area network at an arbitrary time on the client data terminal, the different data terminals being coupled to the local area network and the public switched telephone network and including the called data terminal, (ii) storing the information sets of communication capabilities into a memory, and (iii) generating on the client data terminal facsimile image information by reference to one of the stored information sets of communication capabilities pertaining to the called data terminal. An information transfer request is created on the client data terminal for requesting transmission of the facsimile image information to an arbitrary facsimile machine connected to the public switched telephone network. The information transfer request is sent from the client data terminal to a communications controller. The information transfer request is transmitted from the communications controller to the called data terminal through the local area network after the information transfer request is sent from the client data terminal to the communications controller.

Anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that the cited reference disclose each and every element of the claimed invention exactly. Applicant maintains that Westwick and Suzuki cannot

anticipate the claimed invention since they fail to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention exactly.

Westwick, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a networked information communication system wherein information units (for example, facsimile documents, digitized voice information, still-motion video or full-motion video frame sequence) are stored locally in plural local terminals instead of being centrally stored in a host processor. Each of the local terminals is connected to a local area network and provides access to any user. A host processor manages all information units and their movement within the system, maintains the status and location of the information units, user profiles and billing information relating to system use by each user, and performs information routing. The information units are stored in the local terminal where they were received until the host processor determines that it is time for the information unit to be sent to the specified destination.

Westwick does not disclose exchange of facsimile capability information between the host processor and the local terminals. The host processor in the system of Westwick does not generate an image in accordance with the capabilities of the called terminal.

The Office Action states that "information sets of communication capabilities" is interpreted as being information regarding user profiles, information unit routing and billing information.

Applicant respectfully submits that this interpretation is inconsistent with the claim language. Claim 1 states, for example, "... generating ... facsimile image information by reference to one of said stored information sets of communication capabilities pertaining to said called data terminal ..."

The information regarding user profiles, information unit routing and billing information of Westwick is unrelated to information of communication capabilities of the called terminal. Westwick simply does not disclose or suggest (nor can Applicant fathom any possible teaching of) generating facsimile image information by reference to user profiles, information unit routing and billing information. As pointed out in the Office Action (at page 3), the user profiles of Westwick contain information such as a distribution list, speed dial codes, passwords, automatic forwarding, telephone numbers, etc. Applicant finds no teaching in Westwick, however, to use the user profiles, information unit routing and billing information to generate facsimile image information which is acceptable to the called data terminal.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Westwick simply does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

Suzuki, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a facsimile device having a LAN communication function for exchanging data with a terminal of a correspondence partner through the LAN connected to an internet. The facsimile device also has a function for exchanging image information with the terminal of the correspondence partner through an exchange network (such as a general switched telephone network). A telephone conversion table which includes for each destination address a telephone number and an IP address is stored in parameter memory. According to Suzuki, the facsimile device transmits a facsimile to the called terminal via the LAN instead of the general switched telephone network when a network address of the called terminal is registered at the facsimile machine.

However, Suzuki does not disclose exchange of facsimile

capability information between the facsimile device and the called terminal. The facsimile device of Suzuki does not generate a facimile image in accordance with the capabilities of the called terminal.

As acknowledged in the Office Action (at page 5), Suzuki does not disclose "information of communication capabilities" as discussed in the present application.

However, the Office Action alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art can consider the storage of the telephone conversion table in the parameter memory, as discussed by Suzuki at column 3, line 66 through column 4, line 13, as "communication capabilities". Applicant respectfully disagrees that Suzuki suggests (much less anticipates) the claimed invention.

As pointed out above, claim 1 calls for "... generating ... facsimile image information by reference to one of said stored information sets of communication capabilities pertaining to said called data terminal ..."

The information in the telephone conversion table of Suzuki simply is unrelated to information of communication capabilities of the called terminal. Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in Suzuki that information from the telephone conversion table can be used to generate facsimile image information. Moreover, Applicant simply does not find teaching or suggestion in Suzuki to use information of communication capabilities to generate facsimile image information which is acceptable to the called data terminal.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Suzuki, like Westwick, simply does not render the claimed invention unpatentable.

Fite, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a compatibility software module which purportedly can make a fax machine compatible

with a number of fax protocols.

Fite does not cure the deficiencies of Westwick and Suzuki as discussed above.

Applicant simply does not find disclosure or suggestion by the cited art of a method of transmitting an information transfer request from a client data terminal, which is coupled to a local area network, to a called data terminal which is coupled to the local area network and a public switched telephone network. The method comprises (i) collecting information sets of communication capabilities of a plurality of different data terminals on the local area network at an arbitrary time on the client data terminal, the different data terminals being coupled to the local area network and the public switched telephone network and including the called data terminal, (ii) storing the information sets of communication capabilities into a memory, (iii) generating on the client data terminal facsimile image information by reference to one of the stored information sets of communication capabilities pertaining to the called data terminal, (iv) creating an information transfer request on the client data terminal for requesting transmission of the facsimile image information to an arbitrary facsimile machine connected to the public switched telephone network, sending the information transfer request from the client data terminal to a communications controller, and transmitting the information transfer request from the communications controller to the called data terminal through the local area network after the information transfer request is sent from the client data terminal to the communications controller, as provided by the method recited in independent claim 1.

Since the cited art does not disclose or suggest each and every

feature of the claimed invention, it does not render the claimed invention unpatentable.

Independent claims 6 and 12 are patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

Accordingly, Applicant maintains that the pending claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with this Response and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a petition for an additional extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Fig. 1

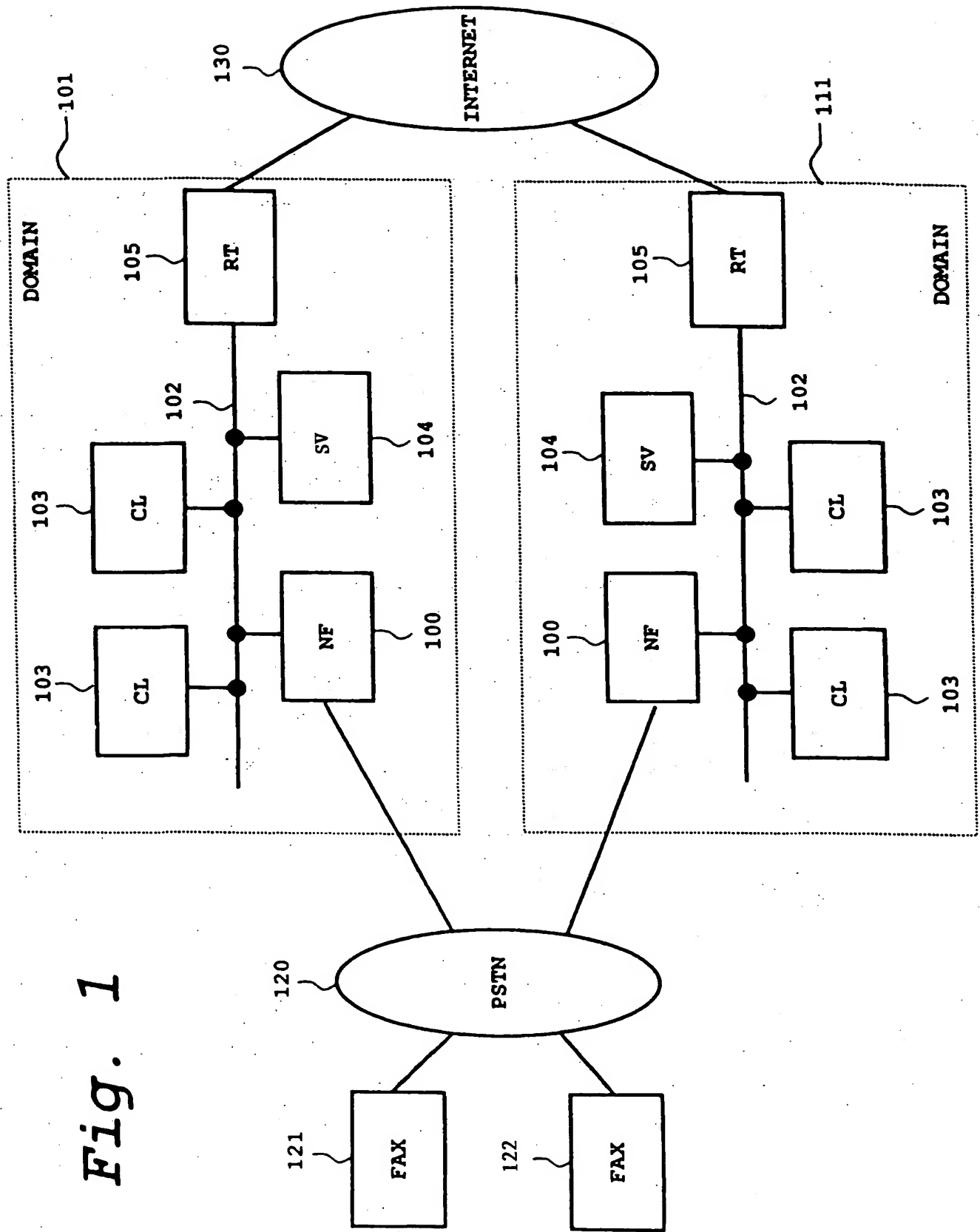


Fig. 2

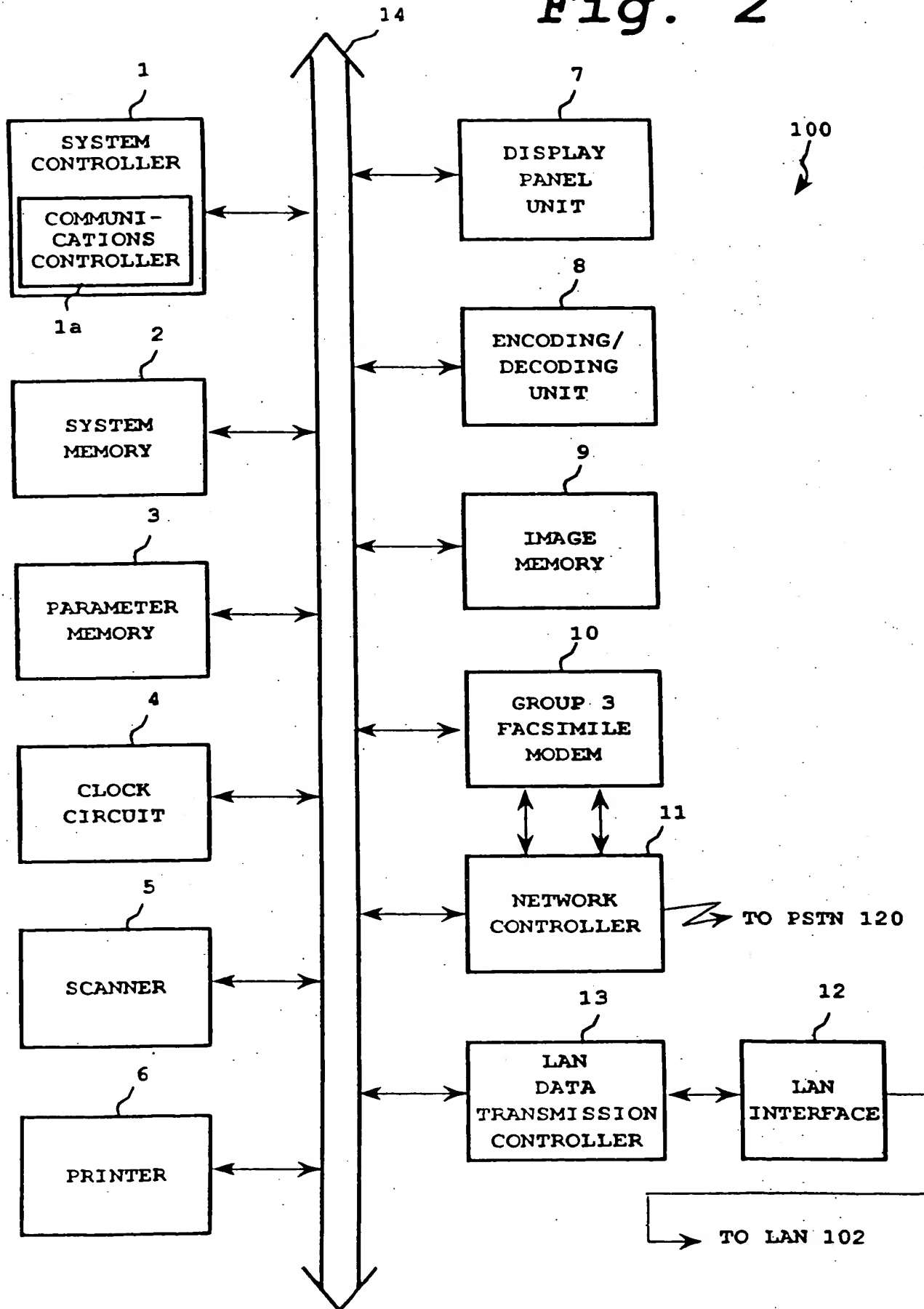


Fig. 3

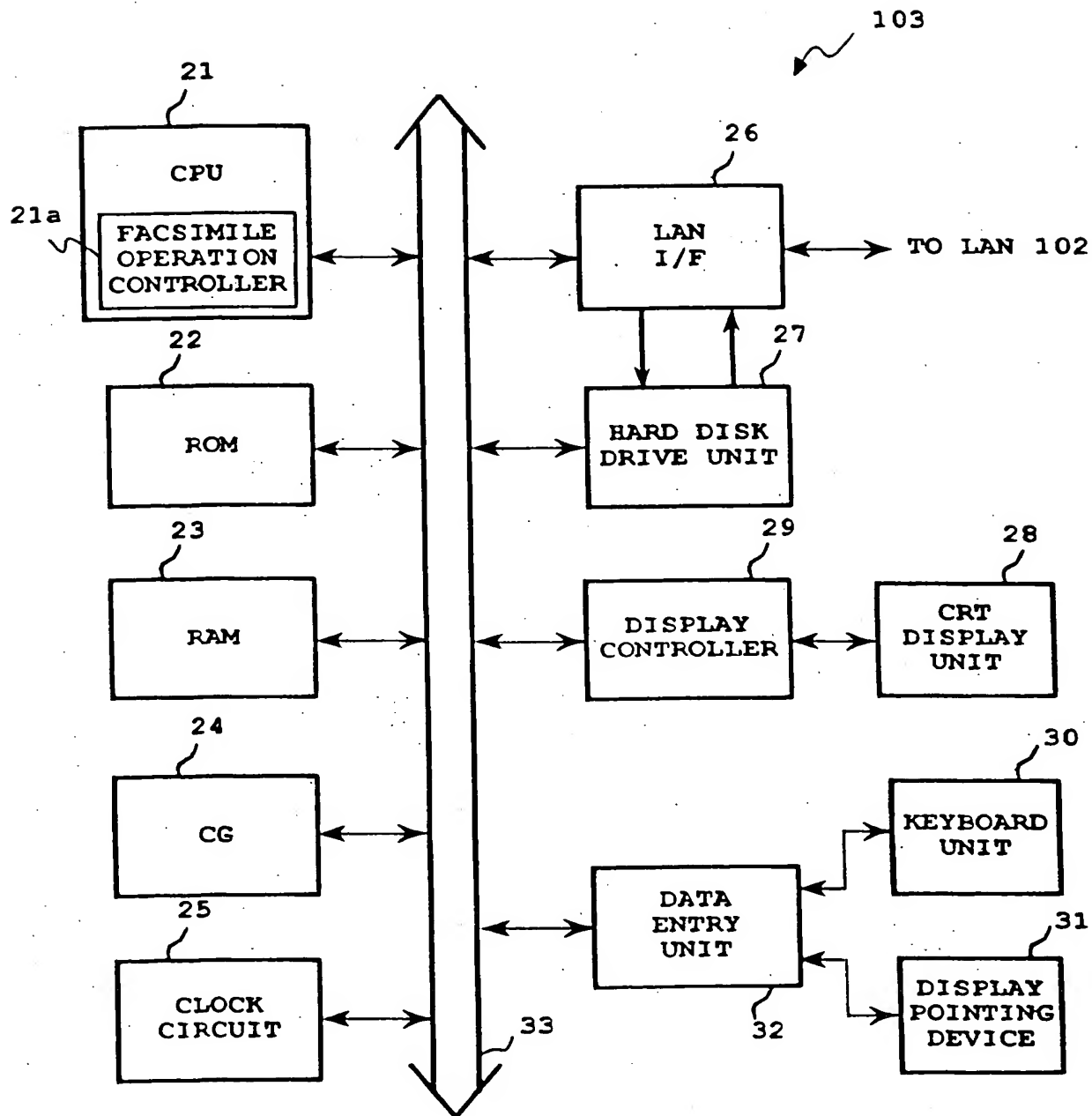


Fig. 4

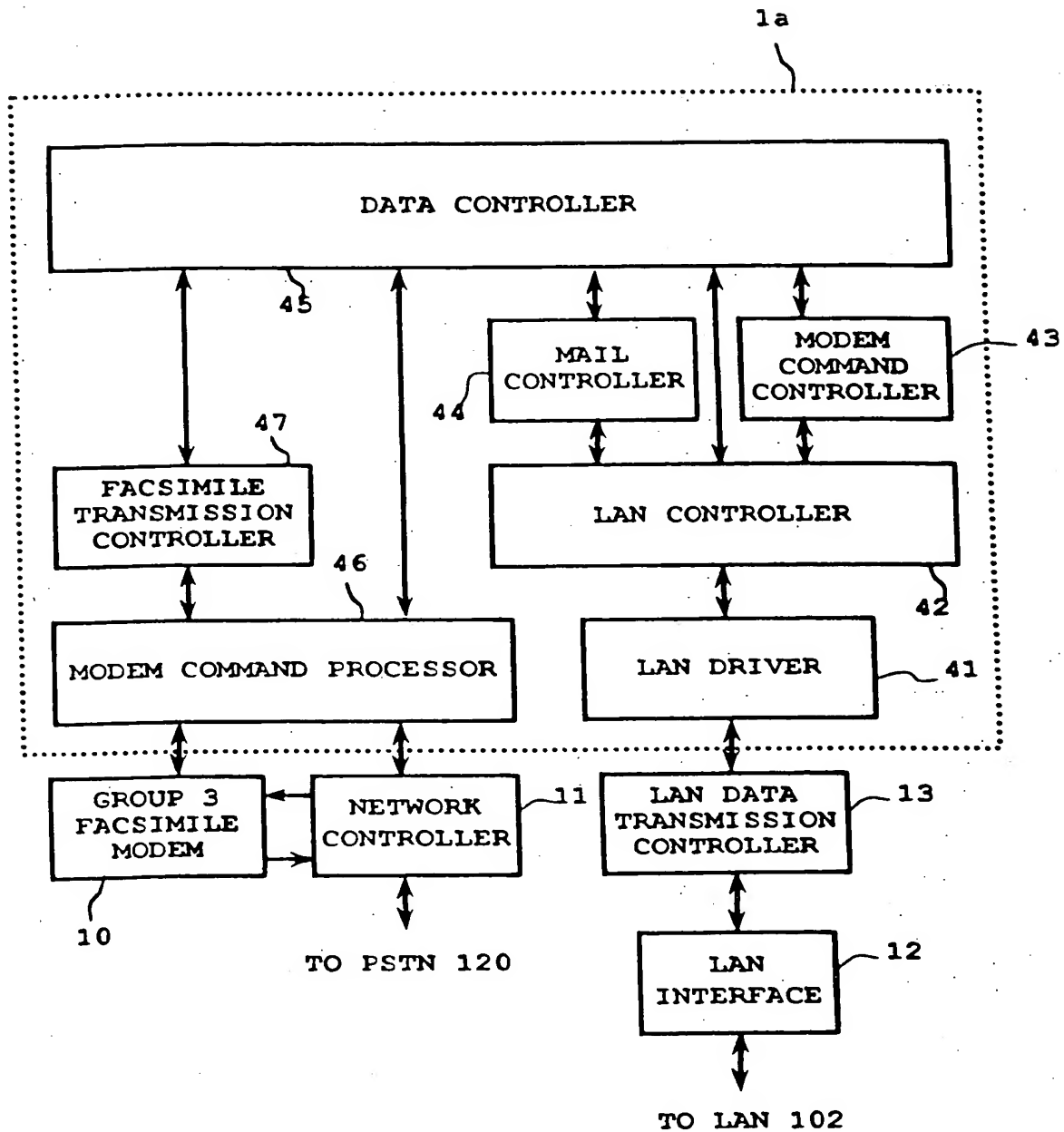


Fig. 5

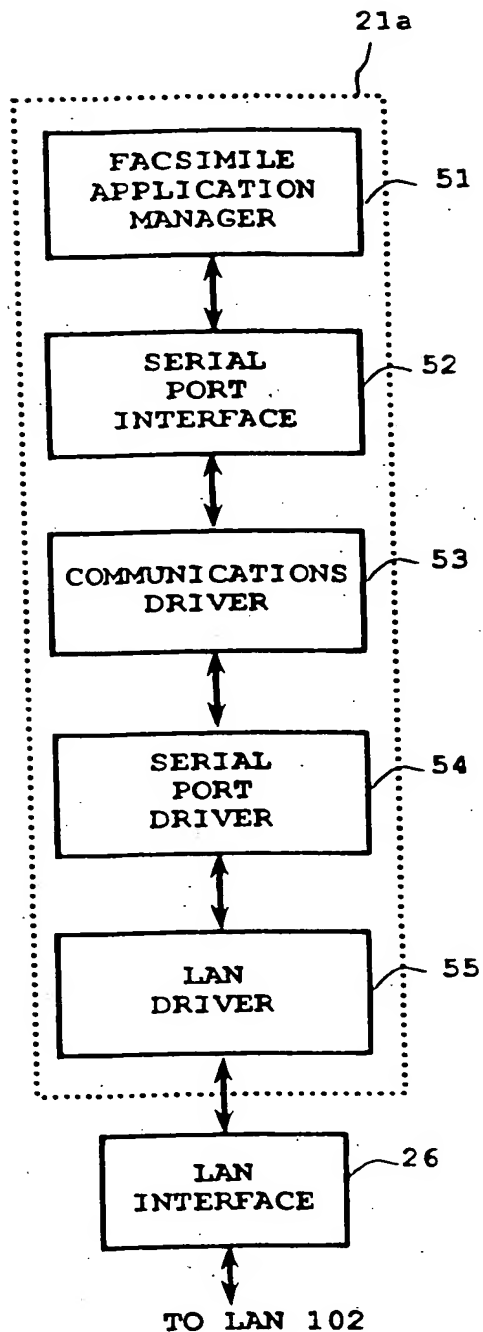


Fig. 6

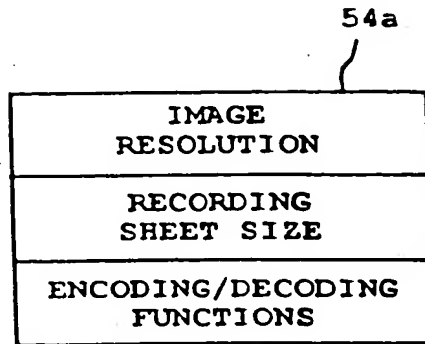


Fig. 7

SERIAL PORT DRIVER 54 NETWORK FACSIMILE 100

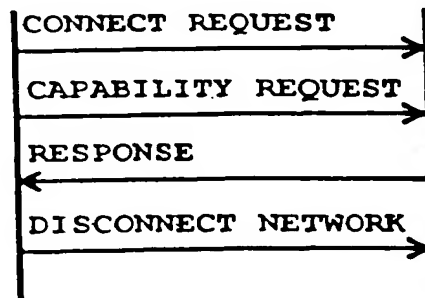


Fig. 8

FACSIMILE
APPLICATION
MANAGER 51

SERIAL
PORT
DRIVER 54

NETWORK
FACSIMILE 100

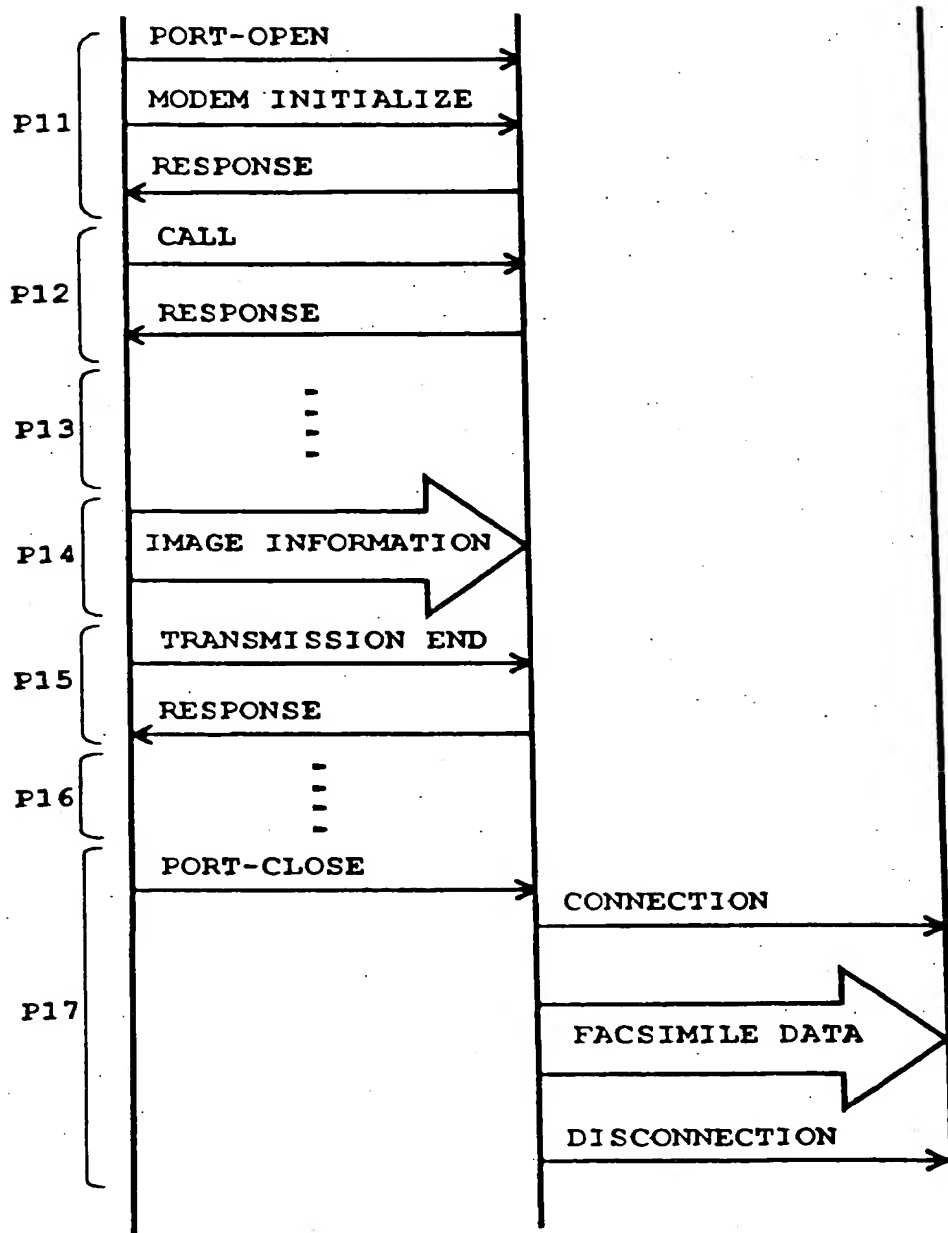


Fig. 9

CALLING TELEPHONE NO.		LOCAL ID
IMAGE PROPERTY HEADER		
RECORDING SHEET SIZE	ENCODING/ DECODING METHOD	RESOLUTION
IMAGE DATA		

Fig. 10A

CALLING TELEPHONE NO.		LOCAL ID
IMAGE PROPERTY HEADER		
RECORDING SHEET SIZE	ME	RESOLUTION
IMAGE DATA IN ME		

Fig. 10B

CALLING TELEPHONE NO.		LOCAL ID
IMAGE PROPERTY HEADER		
RECORDING SHEET SIZE	MMR	RESOLUTION
IMAGE DATA IN MMR		

Fig. 11

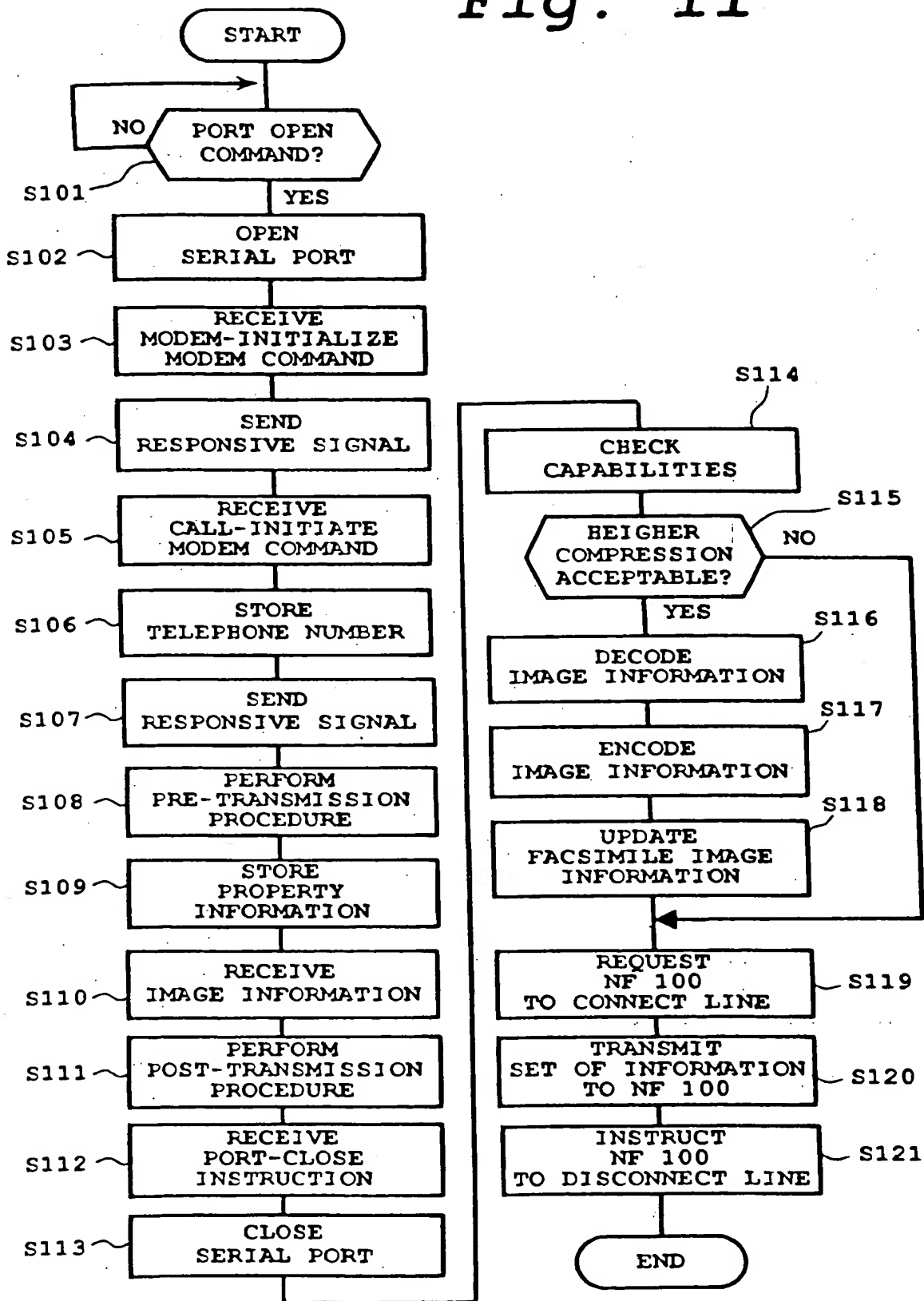


Fig. 12

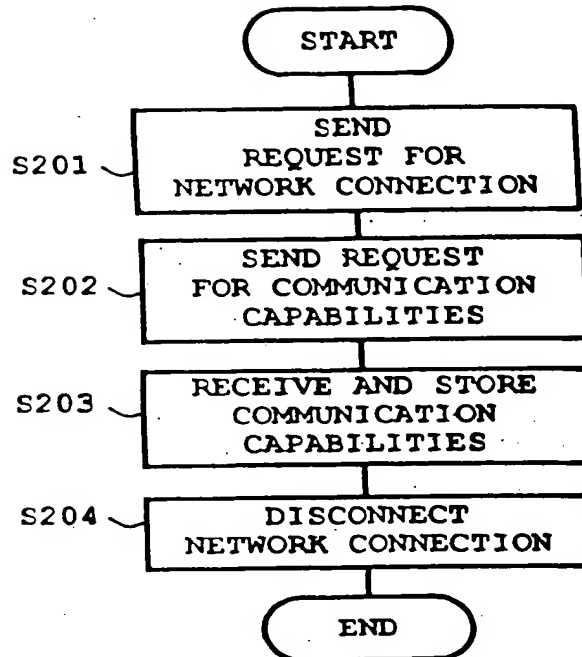


Fig. 13

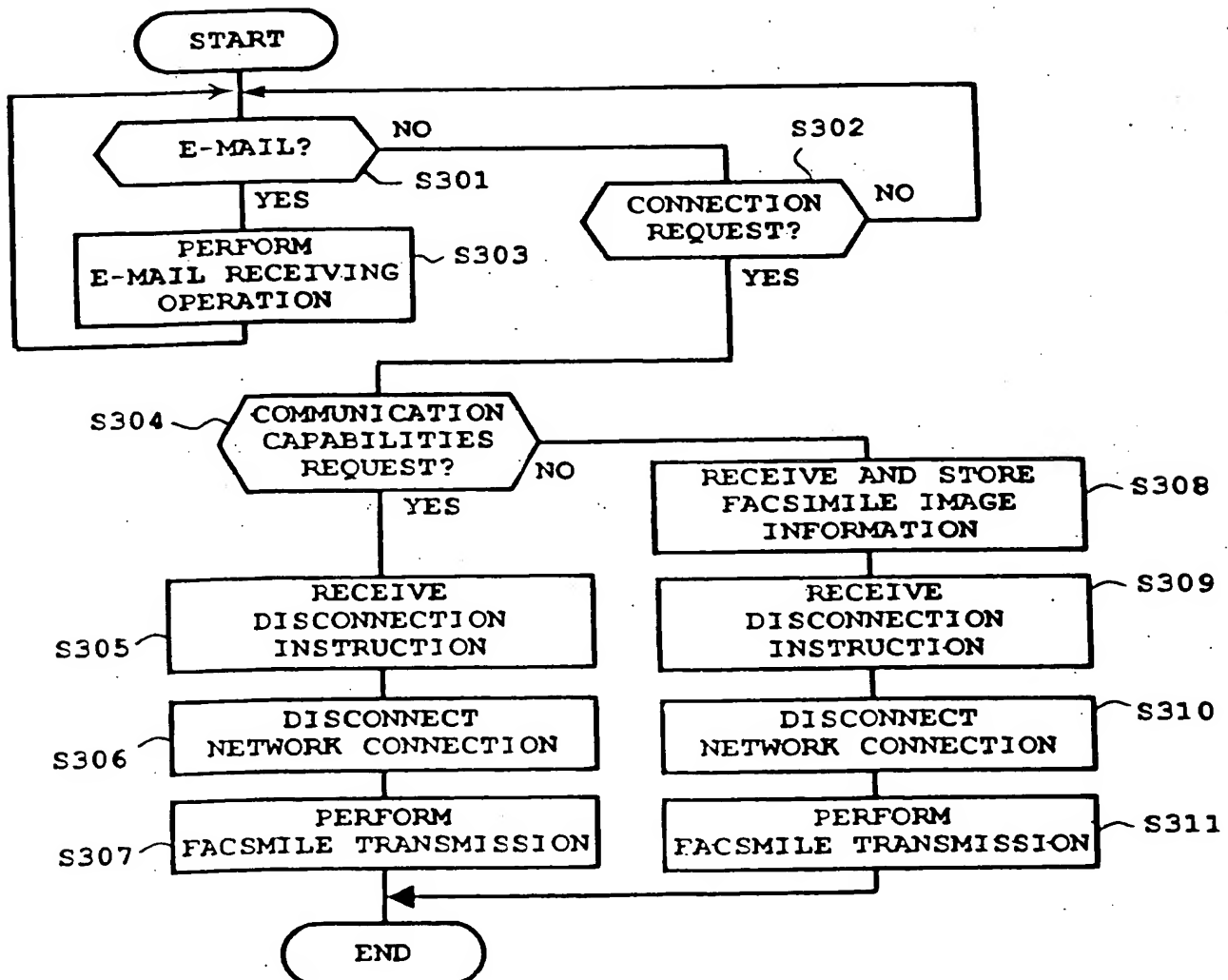


Fig. 14

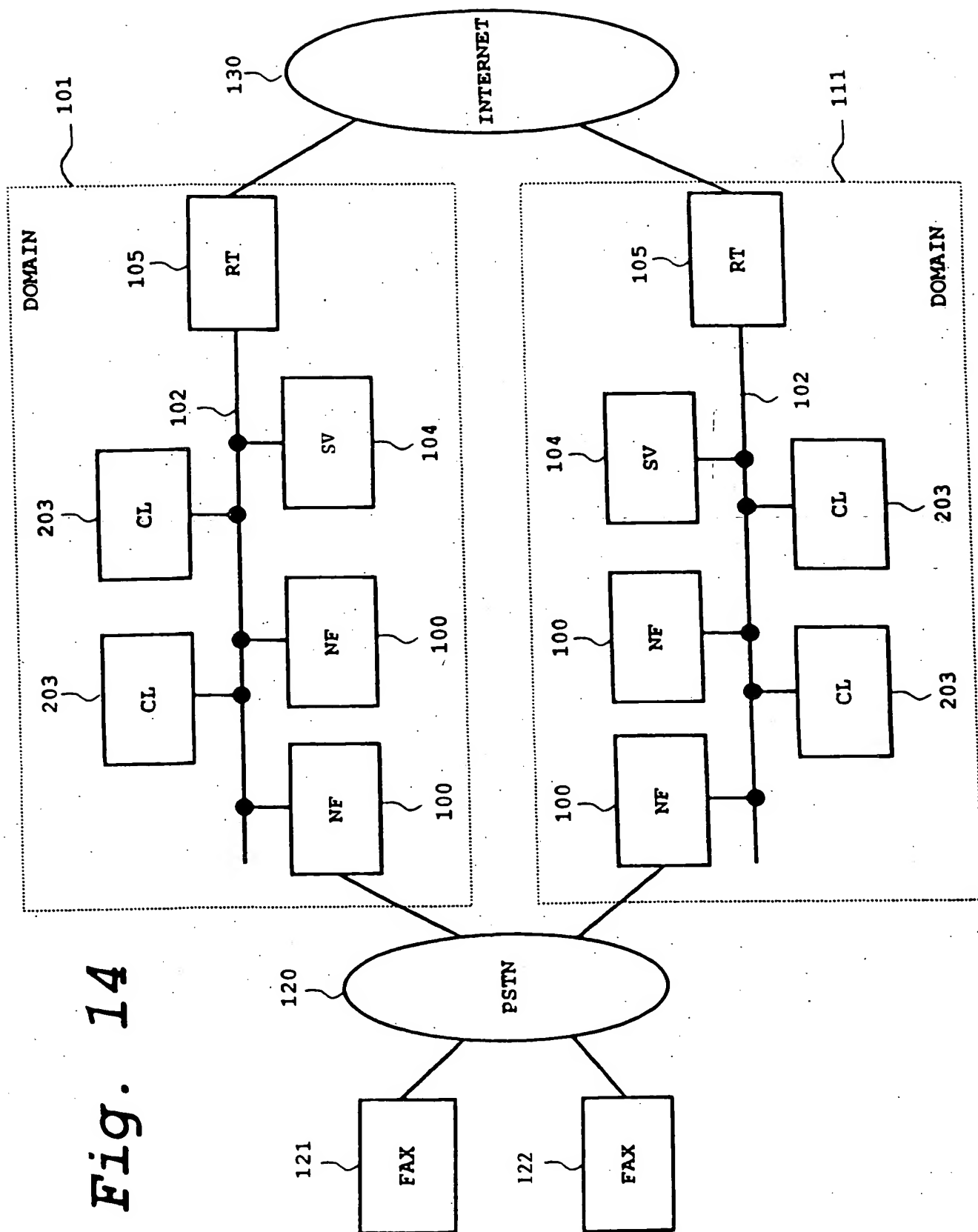


Fig. 15

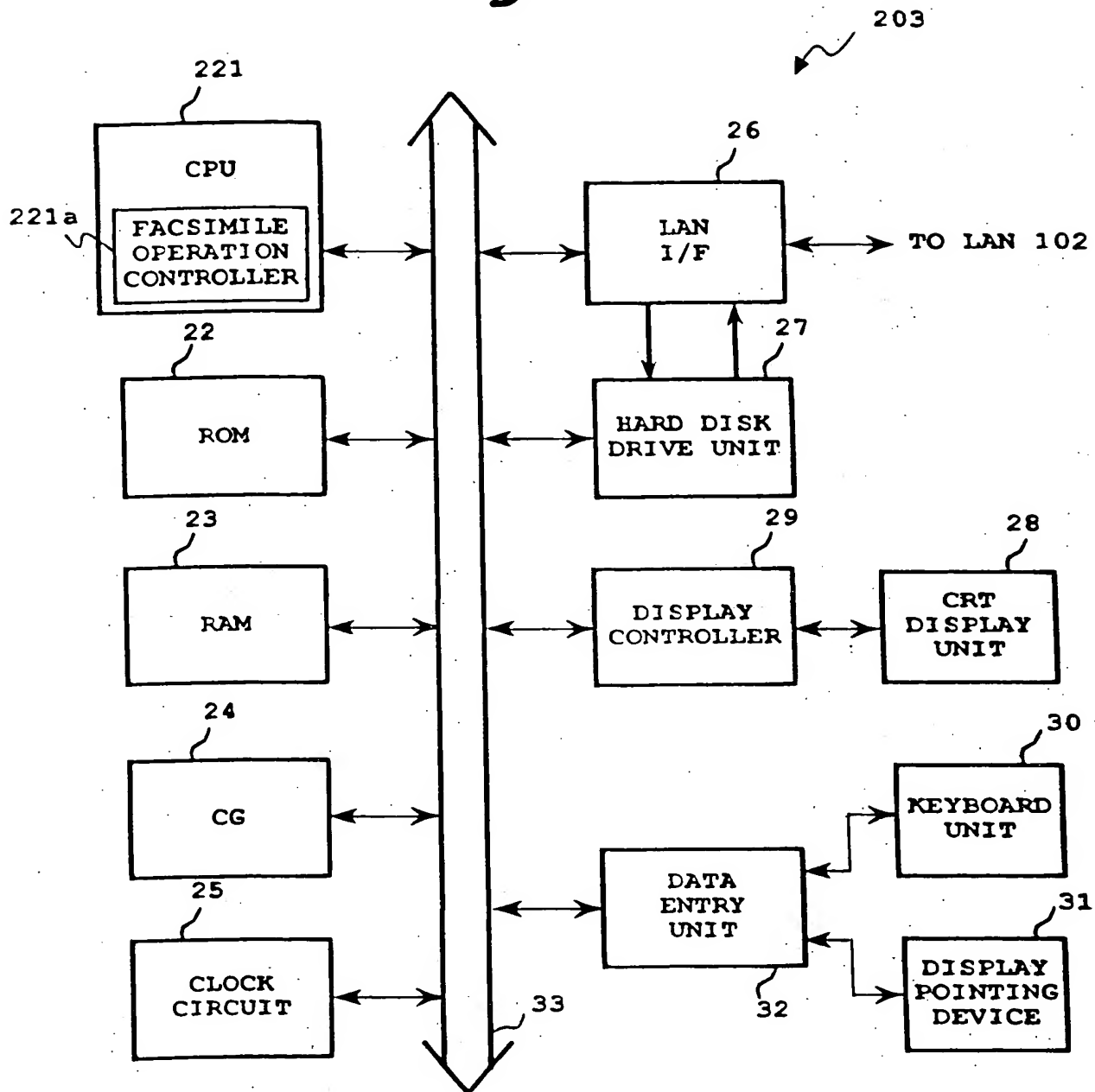


Fig. 16

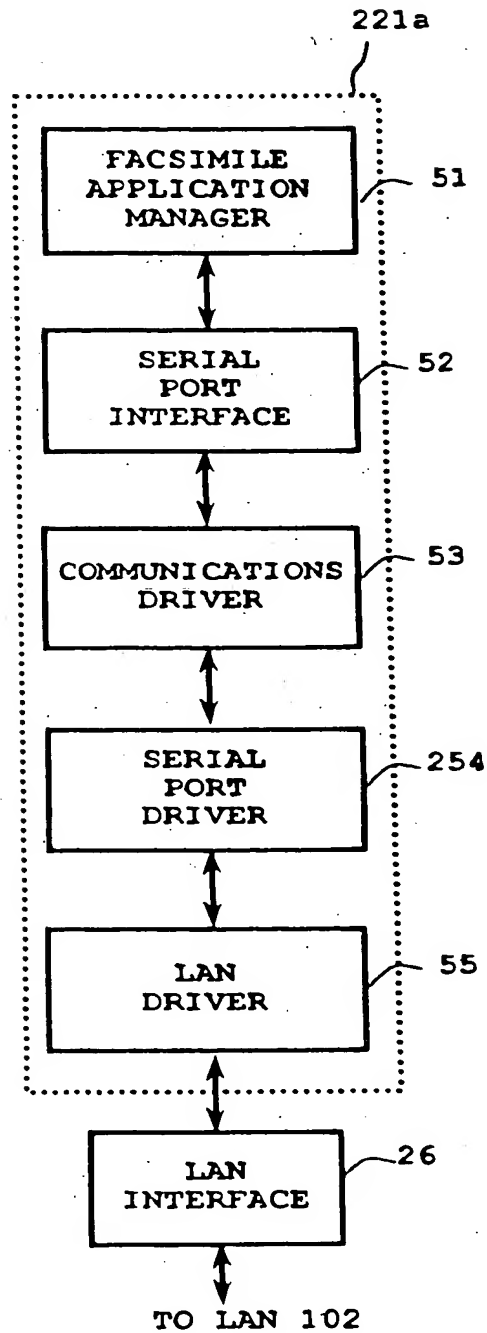


Fig. 17

254a

CONNECTION	IMAGE RESOLUTION	RECORDING SHEET SIZE	ENCODING/DECODING FUNCTIONS
NF001	SUPER FINE	A3	MMR, MR, MH
NF002	FINE	A4	MH
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮

Fig. 18

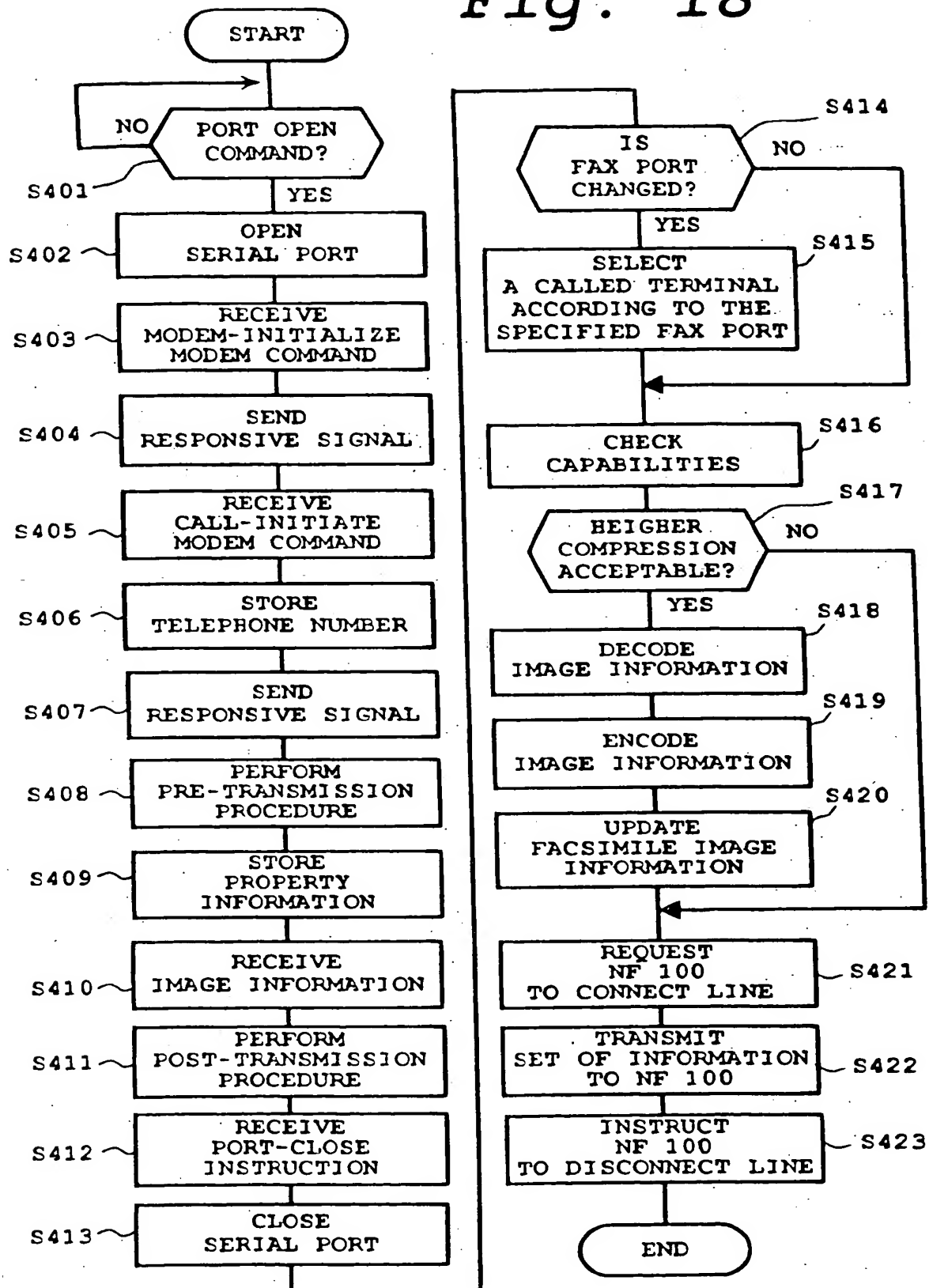


Fig. 19

